

SOME NEW AUSTRALASIAN SPECIES OF XYRIS

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During the study of the *Xyridaceae* of the Malaysian area it was desirable to study those of Australia and Continental Asia as well. The Malaysian species now have, in the meantime, been published (*Flora Malesiana*, ser. 1, 4, 1953, 366—376). To the new taxa described in *Blumea* 7, 1953, 307—308 the Latin diagnoses of the following new species and a new section may here be added:

1. *Xyris linifolia* van Royen, nov. spec. — *Fig. 1.*

Herba mediocris, ad 40 cm alta. *Folia* subulata, ad 25 cm longa, c. 1 cm diam., subfalcata, acuta, sparse papillata; vaginae 6—8 cm longae,

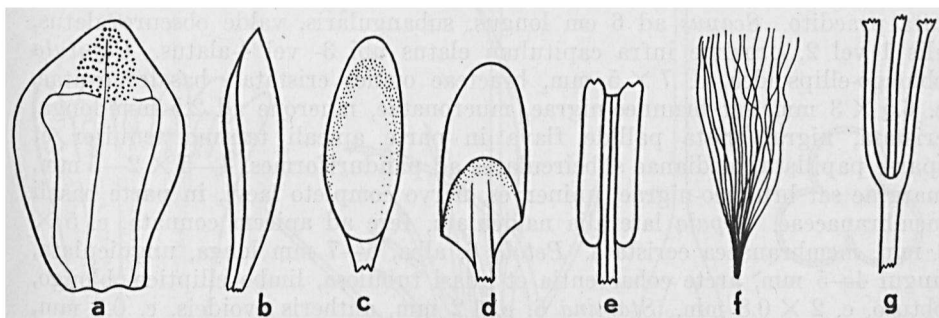


Fig. 1. — van Royen — a. median bract, b. lateral sepal, c. bud, d. median sepal, e. stamen, f. staminode, g. style (

basi 3—6 mm latae; ligula brevis acuta c. 1 mm longa. *Scapus* 20—40 cm, c. 1 mm diam., teretiusculus, 2- vel pluricostatus, minute papillatus. *Capitula* ovoidea ad globosa, pauciflora, ad 7 × 6 mm, bracteae basales suborbiculares, 4.5—5.5 × 3.5—4 mm, obtusae, enerves, in parte superiori minute papillatae, papillis arcum triangularem formantibus, medianae obovatae, 6—6.5 × 4.5—5 mm, nervosae, nervis nervo mediano et uno nervo completo in costae utroque latere orto ad bracteae apicem laxe reticulato compositis, in parte mediana superiori minute papillatae, papillis arcum

suborbicularem formantibus. *Flores* masculini ignoti, florum femineorum *sepala* lateralalia angusta, $5.5-6.5 \times c. 1.5$ mm, acutiuscula, emarginata, ecristata, alata, alis sat latis, sepalum medianum cucullatum, $4.5-5 \times c. 2$ mm, binerve. *Petala* nondum evoluta limbo orbiculari 4 mm longo et lato munita, margine serrata, unguiculo c. 2 mm. *Stamina* c. 3 mm, antherae c. 2 mm, apice profunde emarginatae, basi apiceque obtusae thecis emarginatis. *Staminodia* 2.5—3 mm, penicillata bifida? Ovarium incomplete cognitum, stylus 4.5—5 mm (vel longior?), trifidus, ramificationibus c. 2.5 mm, apice capitatis. *Capsula* ignota.

Typus: *Smiles s.n.* in K.

Distr.: Siam — in open grassland near base of Mt Kau.

This species differs from all Malaysian species except *X. borneensis* in the terete leaves and the three complete nerves of the bracts.

Though the leaves of *X. borneensis* are also terete, the bracts are provided with numerous complete nerves. Moreover, the lateral sepals in *X. borneensis* are ciliate, those of *X. linifolia* smooth and entire. In its anthers the present species resembles *X. ridleyi*, *X. pauciflora*, *X. borneensis*, *X. capensis*, *X. complanata* etc., the anthers being deeply incised at the top and the thecae emarginate.

2. *Xyris nigromucronata* van Royen, nov. spec. — *Fig. 2.*

Herba annua parva, ad 6 cm alta. *Folia* linearia, $1-2.5$ cm \times c. 1 mm, mucronata, apice nigra et pilis robustis paucis hispida, anguste bi-alata, alis tenuiter et sparse papillatis, in parte basali elliptica in sectione transversa, apice incrassata et triangularia in sectione transversa, vaginae 3—6 cm longae, apice pilis multis albis munitae, margine membranacea, marginibus pedunculi basin includentibus, pedunculo ligula biloba pilis destituta praedito. *Scapus* ad 6 cm longus, subangularis, valde obscure alatus, alis 1 vel 2, proxime infra capitulum elatus ubi 3- vel 4-alatus. *Capitula* oblongo-ellipsoidea, c. 7×5 mm, bracteae omnes cristatae, basales ovatae, c. 6.5×3 mm, sat brunneo-nigrae, mucronatae, mucrone ad 2.5 mm longa, cristata, nigra, crista pallide flava in parte apicali tantum tenuiter et sparse papillata, medianae subcirculares ad panduriformes, $4-5 \times 2-5$ mm, margine sat brunneo-nigrae, uninerves, nervo completo laevi, in parte basali membranaceae. *Sepala* lateralalia naviculata, fere ad apicem connata, c. 5×1 mm, membranacea ecristata. *Petala* 6, alba, 6—7 mm longa, unguiculata, ungui 4—5 mm, arcte cohaerentia et quasi tubulosa, limbo elliptico-oblongo, obtuso, c. 2×0.8 mm. *Stamina* 6, c. 1.2 mm, antheris ovoideis, c. 0.6 mm, truncatis, emarginatis thecae basi obtusae; filamenta subulata, c. 0.6 mm. *Staminodia* desunt. *Ovarium* subovoideum ad ellipsoideum, c. 2×1 mm, trilobum, in parte basali 3-, in parte superiori 1-loculare, stigmatibus 3 terminatum. *Capsula* ovario similis, sed ad 3×1.5 mm metiens; semina sparse papillatae.

Typus: *Pritzel 635 a* in L.

Distr.: Australia — in scrub between Moore and Murchinson river.

This specimen was found mixed with *Stylidium bulbiferum* Benth. var. *septentrionale* Mild braed in *Pritzel 635*. Therefore it is separated from that species under *635 a*.

This highly characteristic species differs from all other species of

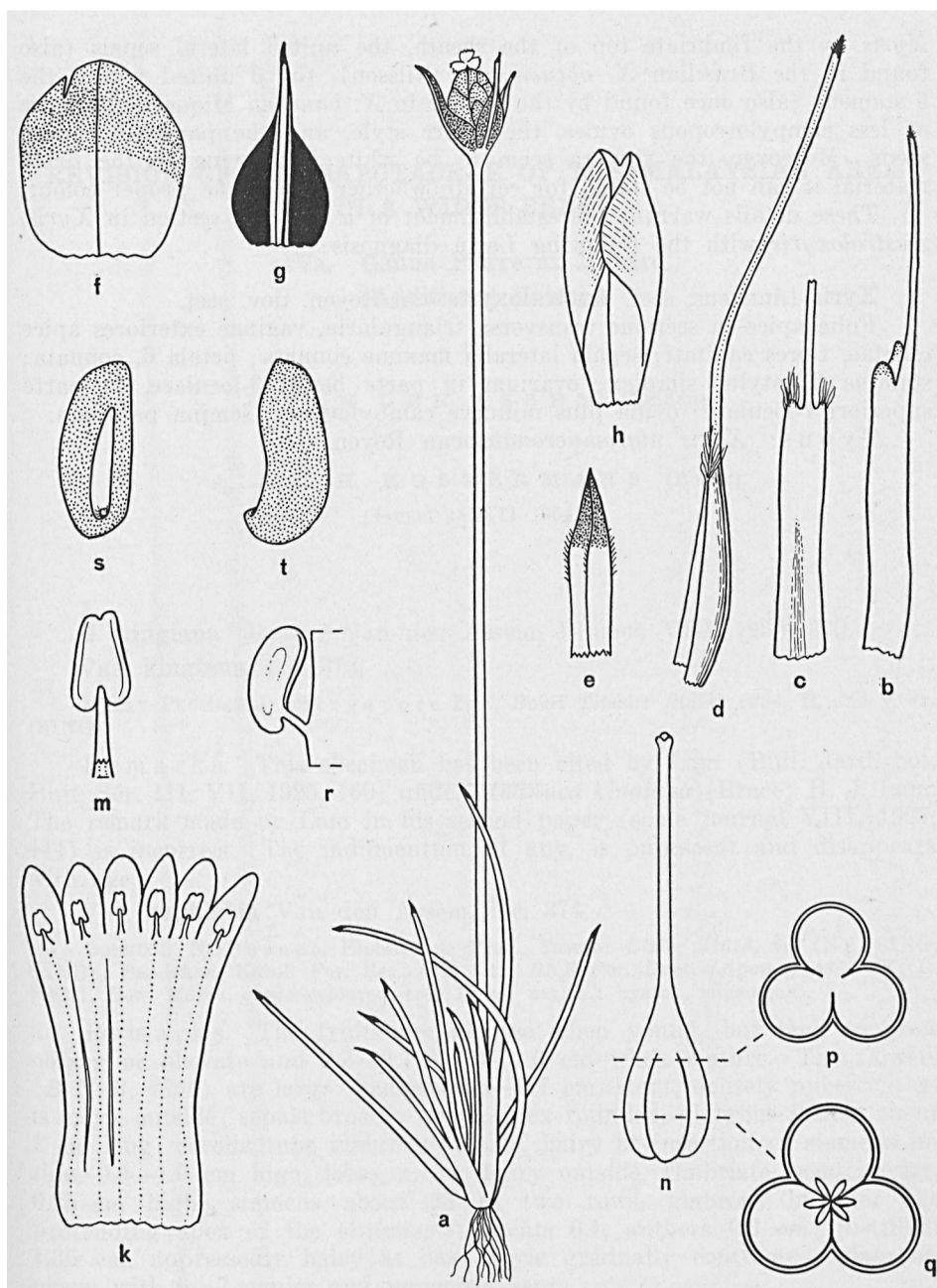


Fig. 2. — *Xyris nigromucronata* van Royen — a. habit, b. base of leaf enveloping base of scape, c. base of leaf between b and d, d. outer leaf, e. leaf tip, f. fertile bract, g. basal bract, h. lateral sepal, k. corolla, m. stamen, n. gynaeceum, p. cross section of ovary in apical part, q. ditto in the middle, r. ovule, s. seed as seen from placenta, t. seed lateral (*Pritzel 635 a*).

Xyris by the fimbriate top of the sheath, the united lateral sepals (also found in the Brazilian *X. obtusiuscula* Nilsson), the 6 united petals, the 6 stamens (also once found by the author in *X. bancana* Miquel), the more or less campylotropous ovules, the entire style, and the papillate curved seeds. Moreover, the flowers seem to be white but owing to the dried material it can not be stated for certain whether this is the proper colour.

These details warrant the establishment of a separate section in *Xyris*, *Australoxyris* with the following Latin diagnosis:

***Xyris* Linnaeus, sect. *Australoxyris* van Royen, nov. sect.**

Folia apice in sectione transversa triangularia, vaginae exteriores apice ciliatae, flores capitati; sepala lateralibus maxime connata; petala 6, connata; stamina 6; stylus simplex; ovarium in parte basali 3-loculare, in parte superiori 1-loculare; ovula plus minusve campylotropa; semina papillata.

Typus: *Xyris nigromucronata* van Royen.